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MOST KOLKHOZES SUCCESSFULLY INITIATE THE STALIN PLAN FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF NATURE

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A year ago, the Council of Ministers USSR and TsK VKP(b) adopted a resolution to plant field shelter belts, to introduce grass-crop rotation, and to construct ponds and water reservoirs to assure large and uniform harvests in the steppe and forest steppe zones of the European USSR.

All agricultural workers enthusiastically received this resolution, which points the way to abundant and uniform harvests, and assumed the obligation to cut in half the time required to put these measures into effect.

The plan called for the kolkhozes to plant 52,900 hectares of trees during the spring of 1949, and a total of 80,500 hectares during the course of the year. To carry out this plan, the necessary land was prepared during the preceding fall, organizational measures for the spring planting season were carried out, and particular attention was paid to seed collection.

The kolkhozes in the steppe and forest steppe zones of the European USSR actually planted 102,800 hectares of field shelter belts during the spring, thereby meeting the spring planting plan 194.8 percent and the year plan 127.6 percent.

The kolkhozes of nine oblasts more than doubled the figures of the spring planting plan; those of Rostov Oblast more than tripled the planned figures; and those of Stavropol' Kray planted more than 10 times the planned quota. The kolkhozes of 17 oblasts, krays, and republics exceeded the 1949 spring planting plan set for them. The fact that most of the kolkhozes carried out their planting during the best planting period assured the shelter belts a good growing start.

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The kolkhozes of the North Caucasus and the Crimea had already exceeded the spring planting plan by 10 April, but since weather conditions were favorable, they continued planting until the end of the month. The Ukrainian kolkhozes had exceeded the plan by 20 April but also continued their planting. Kolkhozes of the Volga region and central chernozem zones had exceeded the plan by 1 May. The kolkhozes of many oblasts finished their planting work in from 6 to 8 days.

At first, there was apprehension that planting stock and shrub seed would be inadequate in some regions. However, enough stock and seed were provided not only to fulfill but to exceed the plan. Instead of 529 million seedlings and wildings per plan, the kolkhozes actually planted almost a billion. The kolkhozes received 89.9 million seedlings from the state tree nurseries of the Ministry of Agriculture, 152 million seedlings, and more than 700 tons of acorns from the nurseries and forest managements of the Ministry of Forestry. In addition, the kolkhozes used almost 77 million seedlings from their own nurseries and procured a large quantity of wildings and cuttings for planting.

It is noteworthy that, in general, the species planted corresponded closely with those recommended for planting. Although a complete analysis of the spring planting program has not yet been made, data received on 45,000 hectares show that the composition of 440 million seedlings, wildings, and cuttings (including 582.4 tons of acorns) planted was as follows: long-lived species, 270 million or 61.4 percent; rapidly growing species, 90 million or 20.5 percent; shrubs, 80 million or 18.1 percent. Long-lived species (including acorns) included 33 percent oak, 32 percent birch, and 19.3 percent ordinary ash. Other species planted in the shelter belts were elm, maple, apricot, mulberry, and apple.

The kolkhozes paid close attention to servicing the planted areas. By 30 June, 127,100 hectares had been cultivated and weeded once, 76,300 hectares had been cultivated twice, and 19,700 hectares three times. As a result of timely planting and good cultivation, the kolkhozes obtained a high rate of survival for the planted stock. Survival data on 64,800 hectares in 13 oblasts revealed the following results:

Survival of 80 to 100 percent on 23,032 hectares or 35.6 percent of the total area; survival of 70 to 80 percent on 25,476 hectares or 39.3 percent of the total area; survival of 50 to 70 percent on 14,189 hectares or 21.9 percent of the total area; survival of less that 50 percent on 2,075 hectares or 3.2 percent of the total area.

These figures show that the average survival rate was 75.3 percent for the indicated area. This high rate was obtained despite unfavorable weather conditions in a number of areas.

In addition to the new planting described, the kolkhozes carried out supplementary planting on 10,300 hectares planted in previous years, and replacement planting on 8,900 hectares planted 3 or more years ago, for a total of 19,200 hectares.

The kolkhozes have plowed 162,300 hectares of fallow land for planting in 1950.

A total of 7,037 tree nurseries has been established on the kolkhozes to provide stock for future planting. In addition, 32 new state nurseries of the Agrolespitomnik (Agricultural Tree Nursery) Turst, covering about 6,000 hectares of land, had been established by last spring. Shrub seeds have been planted on more than 7,000 hectares by kolkhoz and state nurseries.

In conformity with the 20 October 1948 decree of the Council of Ministers USSR and TsK VKP(b), the first planting of shelter belts according to the Lysenko nest method was undertaken this year on the fields of scientific research and experimental institutes. The institutes of the Ministry of Agriculture devoted 831 hectares to this purpose. Planting by the nest method was done in many oblasts, krays, and republics under various natural conditions. Results have shown that the nest method is the very best method for tree planting in the steppe and forest steppe zones, involving a minimum of maintenance work and material.

When acorns were planted according to the nest method during the past spring, with winter wheat, oats, barley, sunflowers, flax, perennial grasses, and other agricultural crops serving as nurse crops, the seeds sprouted well and the plants developed good root systems.

These experiments have laid the foundation for general adoption of the nest method of planting long-lived and rapidly growing tree seeds and of sowing shrub seeds in rows. And whenever new shelter belt planting is undertaken on soils where oak will grow, it is expedient that this hardy species of tree be used.

Use of the next method of shelter belt planting considerably reduces expenditures of labor and materials as compared with conventional tree planting methods. Besides, it permits three to four-year use of the land between the tree belts for agricultural purposes.

This new method for planting trees in the steppe and forest steppe zones of the USSR, developed on the basis of Michurin agrobiological science, offers the possibility of considerably raising the planting plan and fulfilling the Stalin shelter belt plan in a much shorter period of time.

The area to be planted by the kolkhozes in 1950 is 350,000 hectares. At such a planting rate, the kolkhoz fields will be protected by shelter belts within a very few years.

Successful application of the nest method on a vast scale demands that special attention be paid to tree and shrub seed, and particularly acorn, procurement. During the course of this year, the agricultural organs must procure not less than 25,000 tons of acorns. It is quite obvious that seed procurement requirements will increase still more in years to come.

About 43,000 kolkhozes in the steppe and forest steppe zones of European USSR were active in tree planting work last spring. About 60,000 kolkhoz squads were organized to carry out the work. In addition, about 6,000 special squads were organized for work at the kolkhoz nurseries.

Much experience in correct organization for tree planting work was accumulated. For example, the kolkhozes of Ryl'skiy Rayon in Kursk Oblast carried out their planting work very successfully, meeting the annual plan 233 percent and obtaining an 85 percent survival rate. The kolkhozes of Skorodnyanskiy Rayon met the annual plan 157 percent and obtained a survival rate of 95 percent.

Vtoraya Pyatiletka Kolkhoz, Petrovskiy Rayon, Stavropol' Kray, planted 12 hectares of belts as compared with 6 hectares per plan and obtained a 90 percent survival rate. Two tree-planting squads were organized at this kolkhoz. They also performed the cultivation work after planting.

The kolkhozes of Troitskiy Rayon, Chkalov Oblast, met the planting plan 370 percent, planting 127 hectares of belts including 15.5 hectares according to the Lysenko method.

The forest conservation stations provided the kolkhozes with much aid. By the beginning of spring work, the Ministry of Agriculture had established 64 stations, of which 60 took part in shelter belt planting work.

All forest conservation stations were fully equipped with tractors, plows, cultivators, tree-planting machines, ditchers, graders, etc. The stations performed deep plowing work between belts on a total area of 9,400 hectares, meeting the plan 172 percent, pre-planting cultivation work on 11,900 hectares, meeting the plan 115 percent; and fallow plowing work on 70,000 hectares, meeting the plan 106 percent.

On some kolkhozes, poor agrotechnical practices led to a reduced rate of survival of the planted stock. Serious planting deficiencies occurred in Astrakhan, Orel, and Crimea oblasts, where shallow planting of seedlings and planting on poorly prepared soil were tolerated. The work of restoring the plantings of previous years was unsatisfactorily organized on kolkhozes in Saratov and Chkalov oblasts and in Mordvin ASSR. On a number of kolkhozes, poor cultivation of the plantings also contributed to a lower rate of survival of the planted stock.

There were deficiencies also in the work of the forest conservation stations. The stations did not fulfill the spring mechanized planting plan, and some stations paid too little attention to cultivating the planted areas. Mechanized cultivation between rows was poorly performed by Orel, Penza, and Ul'yanovsk oblast stations. Instances occurred of insufficiently deep plowing, poor soil cultivation, and too light tamping of the soil around seedlings.

One of the most serious deficiencies was the fact that conservation stations served too large a number of kolkhozes, located in several areas and at considerable distances from each other. This fact made it difficult for the tractor brigades to do thorough work, made for much unproductive traveling time, and caused delays in providing timely service.

The forest conservation stations must improve machine-tractor park service, must reduce the travel time and unproductive time of tractors, and must obtain fulfillment of established work norms by each tractor driver. To accomplish these tasks, it will be necessary for the stations to concentrate their efforts on a smaller number of kolkhozes. Beginning in the spring of 1950, in addition to tree planting work, forest conservation stations will have to carry on pond and reservoir construction work and ravine afforestation work, as well as agricultural work which is being performed by machine-tractor stations at present.

During the fall of this year, maximum attention must be paid to supplementing this year's plantings and restoring previous years' plantings. All-around preparations for the 1950 spring shelter belt planting season also should be made in autumn.

Introduction of the grass-crop rotation system has great significance in the drive for large harvests and a high level of livestock production, as has been pointed out by agricultural science and proved by thousands of leading kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Grass-crop rotation is an important part of the grass-crop system of agriculture now being established on a vast scale on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

Grass-crop rotation is being introduced on the kolkhozes in the steppe and forest steppe zones of the European USSR with two fields of perennial legumes and grasses. In the most arid areas, three grass fields are established. Crop rotation is to be inaugurated on 10,866 kolkhozes in 1949. This work is being carried out successfully and there is no doubt that the task will be accomplished.

With the intention of expediting this work in Bashkir ASSR and Voronezh and Kursk oblasts, the Ministry of Agriculture USSR has sent land management specialists from other oblasts to these regions. Students of higher land management schools and technical schools have been attracted to the work of introducing crop rotation. Internal land management is being undertaken this year on a number of kolkhozes in Stavropol' Kray, Ryazan, Chkalov, and other oblasts, where the work of dividing the fields had been carried out in previous years by kolkhoz surveyors under the supervision of agronomists and land management specialists. The reluctant precise surveying clearly defines the boundaries of fields for crop rotation purposes. Forage crop rotation also is being introduced.

It should be noted that mistakes which were made on some kolkhozes when crop rotation was introduced in past years, are now being corrected. In Ryazan Oblast, for example, about 2,000 of 3,746 kolkhozes on which crop rotation was introduced do not have forage crop rotation. In Penza Oblast, 440 of 1,745 kolkhozes do not have forage crop rotation. On some kolkhozes, the area devoted to forage crop rotation proves to be too small and does not provide the livestock with adequate forage. On these kolkhozes, the area must be increased.

Some successes already have been scored in the development of grass sowing, but much remains to be done. The kolkhozes of Kursk Oblast sowed 5 times more prennial grass this year than last, those of Zhitomir Oblast 4 times more, those of Chernigov Oblast 11 times more, and those of Sumy Oblast 17 times more. In some oblasts, however, the perennial grass sowing plan for this year has not been fulfilled. Voronezh, Penza, Saratov, Ul'yanovsk, and Ryazan oblasts have an especially poor record in this respect. In Stavropol' Kray, less perennial grass was sown this year than last. Such occurrences are extremely serious, since they inevitably reflect on progress in the adoption of crop rotation.

Cultivation of perennial grasses intended for seed production is much better this year than last. Many kolkhozes are carrying out such agrotechnical measures as fertilizing, cultivating between rows, weeding, and artificially pollinating alfalfa in an effort to get a larger harvest. The kolkhozes are also selecting stands of perennial grasses intended for seed production with much greater care. But in order to obtain more seed, the agricultural workers must also carry out threshing at the right time without delay.

To set up an accounting system on the working of grass-crop rotation, all kolkhozes have been issued sowing record books. Entries must be made in these books as to the crops sown on the fields and the agrotechnical measures applied to each crop in each field. These record books, reflecting a history of each field, will ease the work of the kolkhozes in setting up annual sowing plans and plans for agrotechnical measures to be applied to each field.

An important feature of the grass-crop system is the proper application of organic and mineral fertilizers, since they greatly increase harvests of agricultural crops. From 1 January to 1 July 1949, the kolkhozes hauled about 94 million cartloads of manure onto the fields as compared with 67

million during the same period last year. The Kursk Oblast kolkhozes met the spring manure hauling plan 148 percent, the year plan 106 percent. The Orel and Ryazan oblast kolkhozes hauled 1½ times more than planned during the spring and met the year plan by more than 90 percent. At the same time, application of mineral fertilizers improved considerably. The plan for fertilization of growing winter crops was fulfilled 132 percent.

The kolkhozes also have achieved noteworthy successes in proper plowing, cultivation, and black fallowing procedures. As of 5 July 1949, 1,843 more hectares of fallow land had been plowed than on the same date in 1948. Cultivation also was more successful, 3,518 more hectares of fallow land were cultivated this year than the previous year. At the same time, there were deficiencies in fallowing procedures in Saratov, Ul'yanovsk, Grozny, and Kursk oblasts, and in Mari and Tartar ASSR's.

The sowing of select seed, adapted to local conditions, is most important in the grass-crop system of agriculture. In the winter grain sowing area in the steppe and forest steppe zones of the European USSR, more than 90 percent of the seed sown was select seed. The kolkhozes of Stavropol' Kray and Chkalov Oblast sowed only select seeds, those of Kursk and Ul'yanovsk oblasts and Tartar ASSR sowed 99.9 percent select seeds. Complete data on the spring sowing of select seed is not yet available for 1949, but a great increase in the area thus sown can be reported.

At the present time, surveying and planning of ponds and water reservoirs is expanding, but actual construction is proceeding slowly. A large number of specialists are engaged in the surveying and planning work.

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